

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11 ACDA-19 SAM-01

DRC-01 /173 W

----- 116256

R 120801Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2406

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5313

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, SF, RH

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL JORDANIAN DENIAL OF GOJ ARMS SALE TO
SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA

1. JORDANIAN PAPERS SEPT 11 GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
REUTERS REPORT OF GOJ PREMIER ZAYD RIFAI'S DENIAL OF BRITISH
GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT JORDAN HAD SOLD WEAPONS TO
EITHER SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA. ARTICLE SAID THAT GUARDIAN
ALLEGED JORDAN SOLD "NETWORK" OF BRITISH-MADE TIGER CAT MISSILES
AND 41 CENTURION TANKS TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR 7 MILLION POUNDS
STERLING. RIFAI STATED THAT JORDAN HAS NEVER CONSIDERED SELLING
ANY TYPE OF AIR OR DEFENSE WEAPONS TO SA OR RHODESIA, NOR WILL
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GOJ DO SO IN FUTURE.

2. RIFAI ALSO REFERRED TO PREVIOUS "FABRICATED" GUARDIAN REPORT WHICH CLAIMED THAT JORDAN SOLD 31 HAWKER HUNTERS TO RHODESIA, WHICH GOJ ALSO HEATEDLY DENIED.

3. RIFAI ALSO DENIED ANY TELEPHONE CONTACT BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND EBYPT'S SADAT RE LATTER'S INTERVENTION TO STOP HAWKER HUNTER SALE (AS CALIMED BY GUARDIAN).

4. COMMENT: SHRILL DENIAL BY PM RIFAI OF SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA OR RHODESIA SHOWS EXTREME GOJ NERVOUSNESS OVER CONTINUED PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THIS STORY. FIRST GUARDIAN ALLEGATIONS OF SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA APPEARED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.) GOJ MAY ALSO BE WORRIED THAT STORY WILL ENCOURAGE AFRICAN STATES TO SUPPORT PLO DRIVE TO ENHANCE STATUS REGARDING PALESTINE REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT EXPENSE OF JORDAN IN FORTHCOMING UNGA DEBATE ON "PALESTINE QUESTION".
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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30 JUN 2005

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